

Type I and II Ground Disturbing Categorical Exclusion Action Classification Form

STIP Project No.	C-5600K
WBS Element	50061.1.12
Federal Project No.	CMAQ-0085(035)

A. Project Description:

The project study area includes approximately 20 miles on I-85 in Gaston and Mecklenburg counties between exits 10 and 33, as well as the parallel section of US 74. This Integrated Corridor Management (ICM) project will include installation of dynamic message signs (DMS) on I-85 and dynamic trailblazers on US 74, signal timing and optimization along US 74, and additional closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras on I-85 and US 74. All work will take place within existing NCDOT right of way. The project is being developed in part with a federal Congestion Management and Air Quality (CMAQ) grant.

B. Description of Need and Purpose:

The purpose of the project is to reduce congestion and improve network performance and reliability and optimize the use of roadway capacity by directing travelers to alternative routes in the local transportation network during an incident or congestion on I-85. Coordinating the installation and operation of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) technology within the existing right-of-way, such as DMS and signal timing and optimization, will provide increased roadway capacity with less environment impact than traditional construction in these sections of I-85 and US 74.

C. Categorical Exclusion Action Classification:

TYPE I A

D. Proposed Improvements:

21. Deployment of electronics, photonics, communications, or information processing used singly or in combination, or as components of a fully integrated system, to improve the efficiency or safety of a surface transportation system or to enhance security or passenger convenience. Examples include, but are not limited to, traffic control and detector devices, lane management systems, electronic payment equipment, automatic vehicle locaters, automated passenger counters, computer-aided dispatching systems, radio communications systems, dynamic message signs, and security equipment including surveillance and detection cameras on roadways and in transit facilities and on buses.

E. Special Project Information:

Permit Considerations

No permits are anticipated to be required for the proposed project.

Natural Resources

Based on a review of the project area and proposed device locations in existing, maintained right of way, there would be no impacts to natural resources.

Cultural Resources

The project has been reviewed by the NCDOT Historic Architecture Team, and it was determined that there are no historic properties present or affected by the project. A No Historic Properties Present or Affected Form is included in Attachment B.

Agency and Stakeholder Coordination

A start of study letter was sent to the following agencies at the beginning of the project development process:

- US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- NC Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Resources (NCDEQ-DWR)
- NC Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC)
- US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)
- US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI)
- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
- NCDOT Division 10
- NCDOT Division 12

No comments were received.

In addition to agency coordination, stakeholder involvement has been a priority for this project, given its interjurisdictional nature. Municipalities participating in stakeholder meetings included the City of Gastonia, City of Charlotte, City of Belmont, and the Town of Cramerton. The Town of McAdenville and City of Lowell have also been identified as potential stakeholders. Additional key stakeholders include the Gastonia Police Department, Gastonia Fire Department, Gastonia Public Works, Belmont Police Department, NCDOT Divisions 10 and 12, NCDOT Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) and Central Office System Timing (COST) units, NCDOT Incident Management Assistance Patrol (IMAP), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), NC State Highway Patrol (NCSHP) Gaston, and Charlotte DOT.

Five stakeholder meetings focusing on the ICM project were held in the NCDOT-Metrolina TMC Building in Charlotte, NC. A summary of primary discussion topics can be found in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Stakeholder Meetings

Date	Meeting Purpose/Discussion
August 9, 2016 (Kickoff Meeting)	ICM focus, documentation, signals, I-85 southbound lane drop, I-85 crashes, sun glare, special events, CMAQ Project (C-5600G), I-85 Roadway widening, Gastonia CCTV cameras, stakeholders.
November 4, 2016	Introduction to project: purpose of the study, study area, stakeholders, response plans and next steps. Additional stakeholder identification.
May 8, 2017	Continue discussions on ICM and receive input from first responders.
April 17, 2018	Project status update, discussion of operational processes, use cases, deactivation, schedule, and next steps.
October 17, 2018	System concept and operational procedure break outs.

F. Project Impact Criteria Checklists:

<u>Type I & II - Ground Disturbing Actions</u>			
<u>FHWA APPROVAL ACTIVITIES THRESHOLD CRITERIA</u>			
If any of questions 1-7 are marked “yes” then the CE will require FHWA approval.		Yes	No
1	Does the project require formal consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) or National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	Does the project result in impacts subject to the conditions of the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGPA)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3	Does the project generate substantial controversy or public opposition, for any reason, following appropriate public involvement?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4	Does the project cause disproportionately high and adverse impacts relative to low-income and/or minority populations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5	Does the project involve a residential or commercial displacement, or a substantial amount of right of way acquisition?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6	Does the project require an Individual Section 4(f) approval?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7	Does the project include adverse effects that cannot be resolved with a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) or have an adverse effect on a National Historic Landmark (NHL)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If any of questions 8 through 31 are marked “yes” then additional information will be required for those questions in Section G.			
<u>Other Considerations</u>		Yes	No
8	Does the project result in a finding of “may affect not likely to adversely affect” for listed species, or designated critical habitat under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
9	Is the project located in anadromous fish spawning waters?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10	Does the project impact waters classified as Outstanding Resource Water (ORW), High Quality Water (HQW), Water Supply Watershed Critical Areas, 303(d) listed impaired water bodies, buffer rules, or Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
11	Does the project impact waters of the United States in any of the designated mountain trout streams?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
12	Does the project require a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Individual Section 404 Permit?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
13	Will the project require an easement from a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) licensed facility?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
14	Does the project include a Section 106 of the NHPA effects determination other than a no effect, including archaeological remains?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

<u>Other Considerations (continued)</u>		Yes	No
15	Does the project involve hazardous materials and/or landfills?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
16	Does the project require work encroaching and adversely affecting a regulatory floodway or work affecting the base floodplain (100-year flood) elevations of a water course or lake, pursuant to Executive Order 11988 and 23 CFR 650 subpart A?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
17	Is the project in a Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) county and substantially affects the coastal zone and/or any Area of Environmental Concern (AEC)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
18	Does the project require a U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) permit?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
19	Does the project involve construction activities in, across, or adjacent to a designated Wild and Scenic River present within the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
20	Does the project involve Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) resources?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
21	Does the project impact federal lands (e.g. U.S. Forest Service (USFS), USFWS, etc.) or Tribal Lands?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
22	Does the project involve any changes in access control?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
23	Does the project have a permanent adverse effect on local traffic patterns or community cohesiveness?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
24	Will maintenance of traffic cause substantial disruption?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
25	Is the project inconsistent with the STIP or the Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO's) Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) (where applicable)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
26	Does the project require the acquisition of lands under the protection of Section 6(f) of the Land and Water Conservation Act, the Federal Aid in Fish Restoration Act, the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), or other unique areas or special lands that were acquired in fee or easement with public-use money and have deed restrictions or covenants on the property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
27	Does the project involve Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) buyout properties under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
28	Does the project include a <i>de minimis</i> or programmatic Section 4(f)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
29	Is the project considered a Type I under the NCDOT's Noise Policy?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
30	Is there prime or important farmland soil impacted by this project as defined by the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
31	Are there other issues that arose during the project development process that affected the project decision?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

G. Additional Documentation as Required from Section F

Based on the responses in Section F, no additional documentation is required.

H. Project Commitments

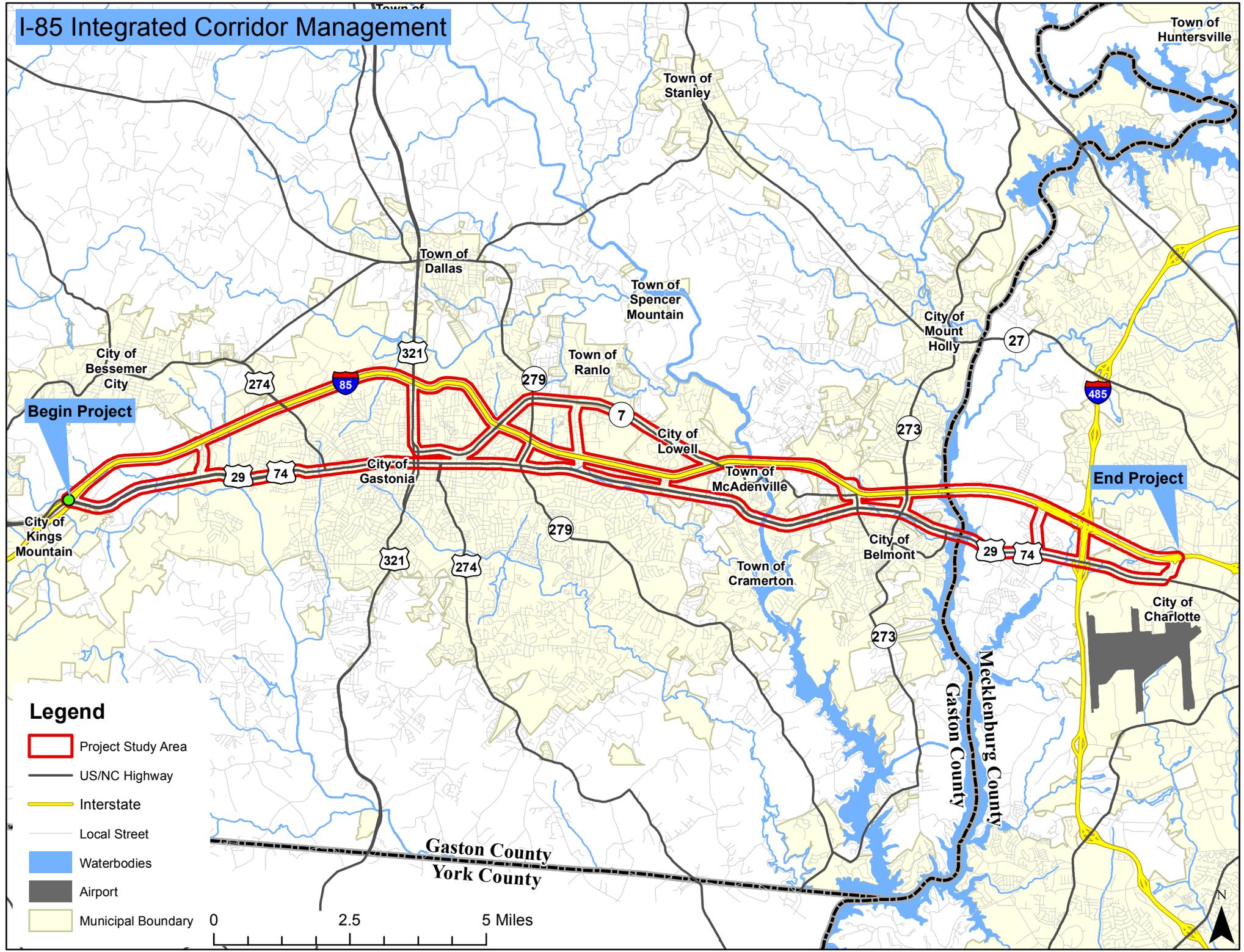
**Gaston County
I-85 Integrated Corridor Management
Federal Project No. HSIP-000S(696)
WBS No. 46278.1.12
TIP No. C-5600K**

No Project Commitments

Attachment A

Vicinity Map

I-85 Integrated Corridor Management



Begin Project

End Project

Legend

-  Project Study Area
-  US/NC Highway
-  Interstate
-  Local Street
-  Waterbodies
-  Airport
-  Municipal Boundary

0 2.5 5 Miles



Attachment B

No Historic Properties Form

19-02-0004



HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE AND LANDSCAPES NO HISTORIC PROPERTIES PRESENT OR AFFECTED FORM

This form only pertains to Historic Architecture and Landscapes for this project. It is not valid for Archaeological Resources. You must consult separately with the Archaeology Group.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project No:	W-5300L	County:	Gaston & Mecklenburg
WBS No.:	46278.1.12	Document Type:	CE
Fed. Aid No:	HSIP-000S(696)	Funding:	<input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal
Federal Permit(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Permit Type(s):	none

Project Description:

The project will include installation of dynamic message signs (DMS) on I-85 and dynamic trailblazers on US 74, signal timing and optimization along US 74, and additional closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras on I-85 and US 74. All work will occur in existing right of way.

SUMMARY OF HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE AND LANDSCAPES REVIEW

- There are no National Register-listed or Study Listed properties within the project's area of potential effects.
- There are no properties less than fifty years old which are considered to meet Criteria Consideration G within the project's area of potential effects.
- There are no properties within the project's area of potential effects.
- There are properties over fifty years old within the area of potential effects, but they do not meet the criteria for listing on the National Register.
- There are no historic properties present or affected by this project. (Attach any notes or documents as needed.)

Date of field visit: n/a

Description of review activities, results, and conclusions:

Review of HPO quad maps, relevant background reports, historic designations roster, and indexes was undertaken on February 20, 2019. Proposed Static signs, CCTV cameras, and proposed dynamic signs are all located outside the boundaries of historic districts. There will not be a change in the visual environment that will impact the qualities that make these districts eligible for National Register. No historic properties will be affected by this project.

SUPPORT DOCUMENTATION

Map(s) Previous Survey Info. Photos Correspondence Design Plans

FINDING BY NCDOT ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Historic Architecture and Landscapes – **NO HISTORIC PROPERTIES PRESENT OR AFFECTED**

Shelby Reap

MARCH 20, 2019

NCDOT Architectural Historian

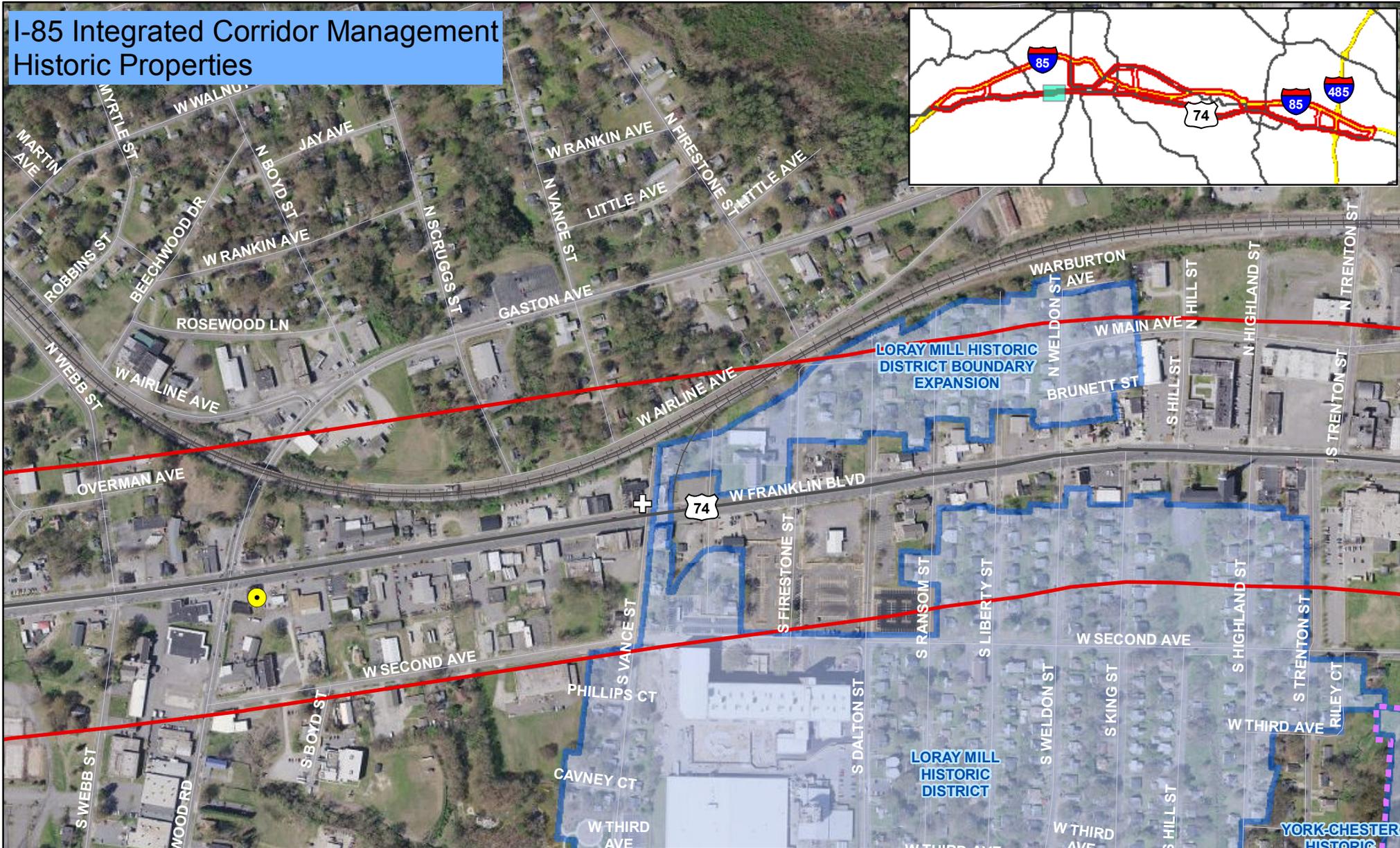
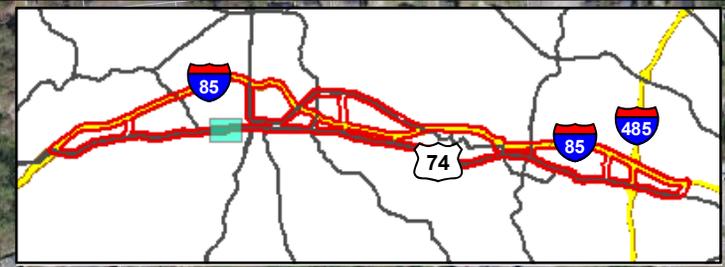
Date



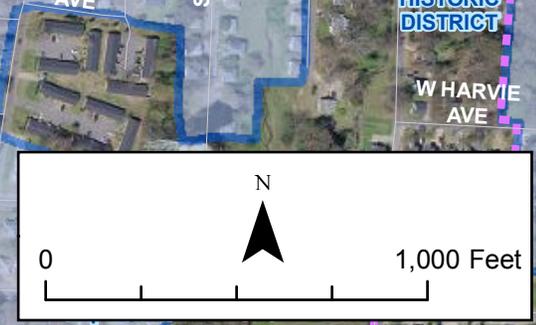


Loray Mill Historic District Corner of S. Vance St and W. Franklin Blvd.

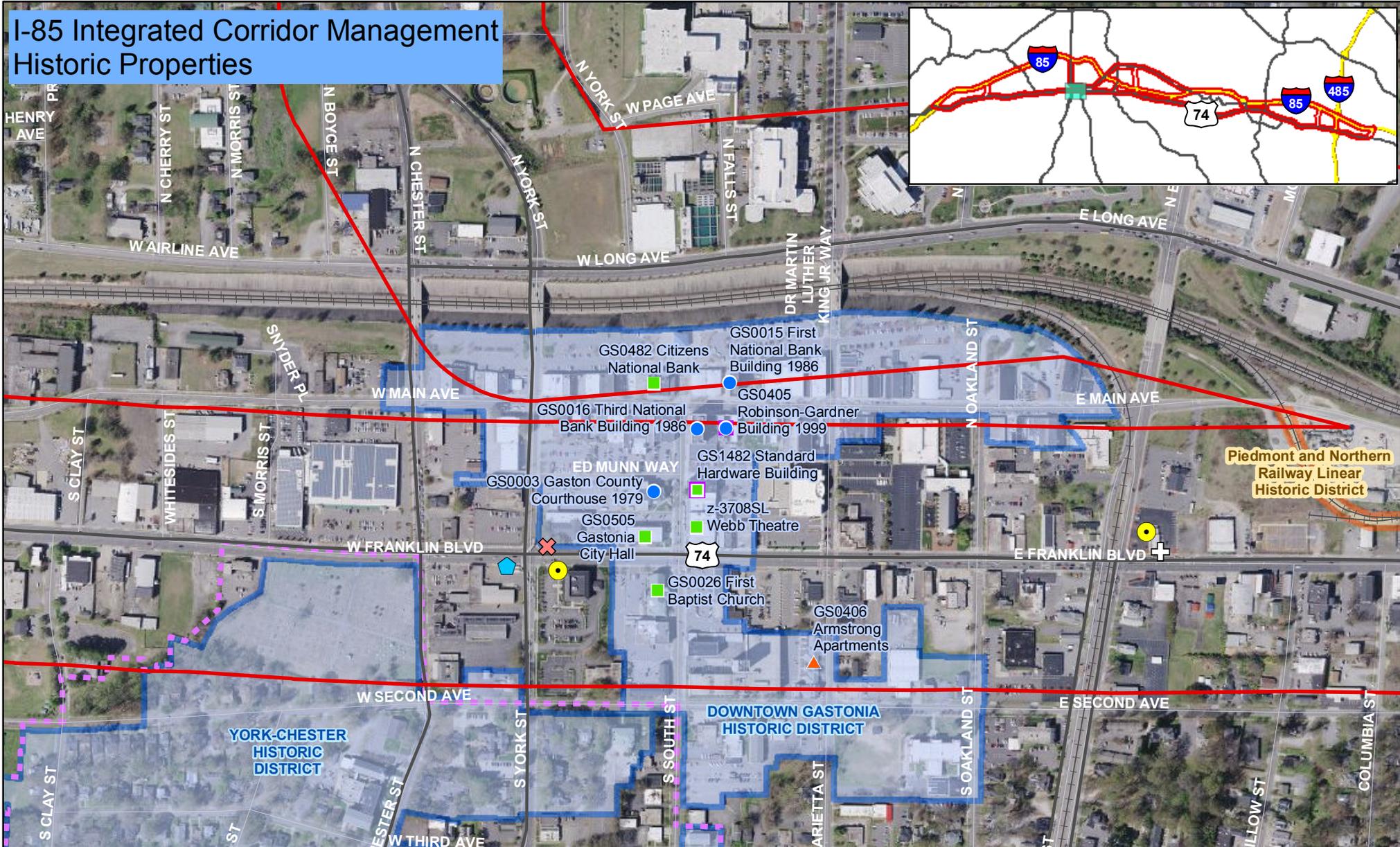
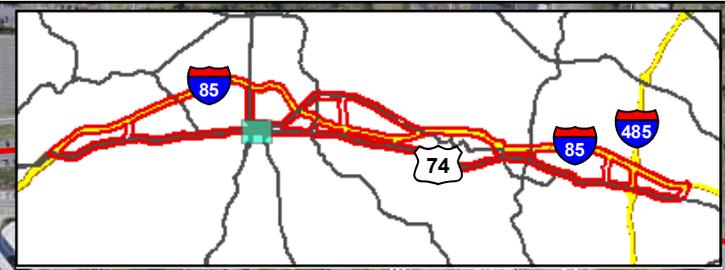
I-85 Integrated Corridor Management Historic Properties



Legend			
	Project Study Area		Proposed Static Sign
	Interstate		Proposed Static Sign Removal
	US/NC Highway		Proposed CCTV Camera
	Local Street		Proposed Dynamic Sign
	Railroad	Historic Structures	
			National Register individual listing
			NR and Local Landmark
			Study List Individual Entry
			SL and Landmark
			Determined Eligible - DOE
		Historic Districts	
			National Register
			Study Listed
			Determination of Eligibility
			Local District Boundaries



I-85 Integrated Corridor Management Historic Properties



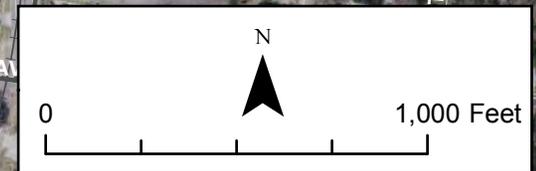
Piedmont and Northern
Railway Linear
Historic District

YORK-CHESTER
HISTORIC
DISTRICT

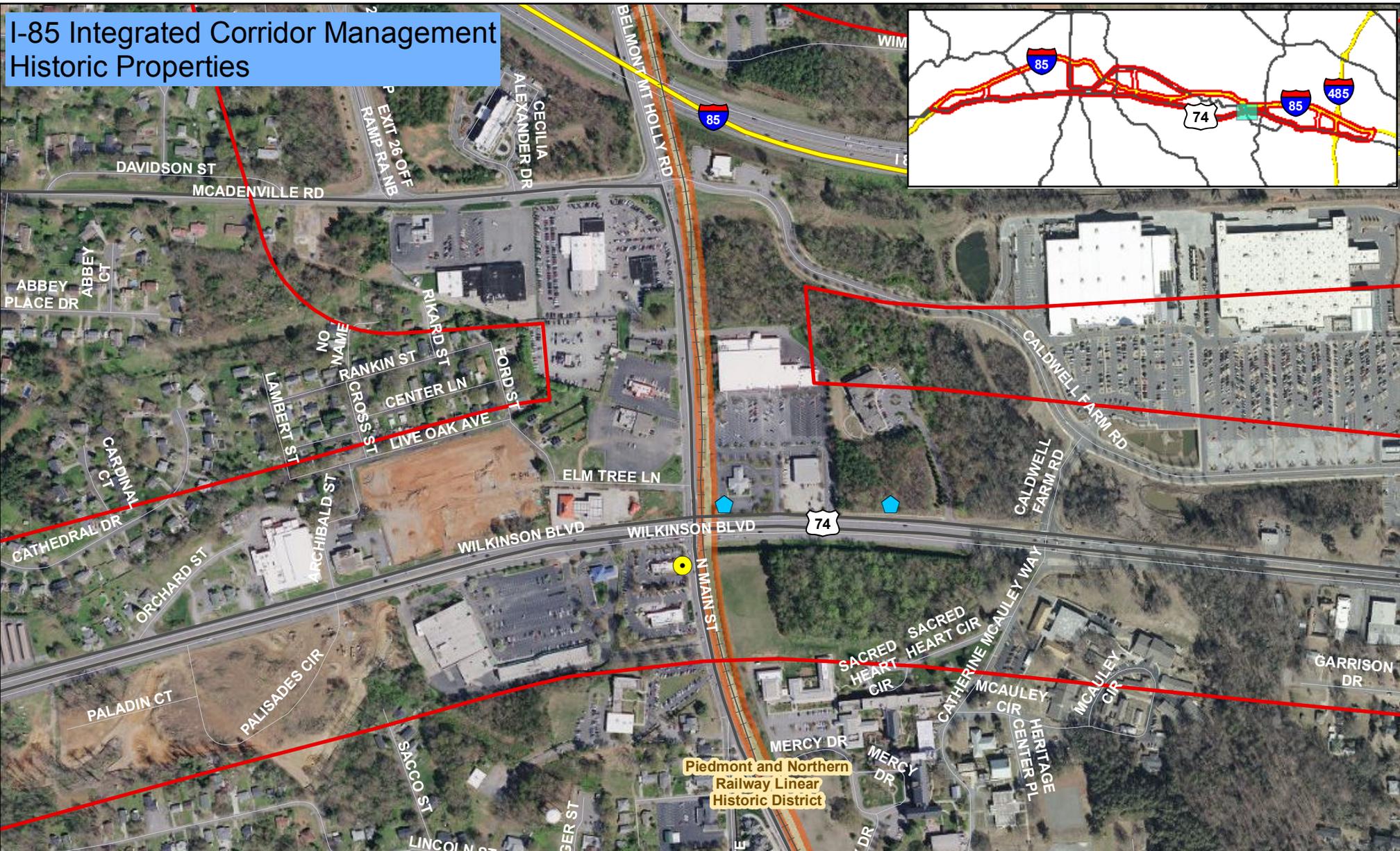
DOWNTOWN GASTONIA
HISTORIC DISTRICT

Legend

- | | | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Project Study Area | Proposed Static Sign | Historic Structures | Historic Districts |
| Interstate | Proposed Static Sign Removal | National Register individual listing | National Register |
| US/NC Highway | Proposed CCTV Camera | NR and Local Landmark | Study Listed |
| Local Street | Proposed Dynamic Sign | Study List Individual Entry | Determination of Eligibility |
| Railroad | | SL and Landmark | Local District Boundaries |
| | | Determined Eligible - DOE | |

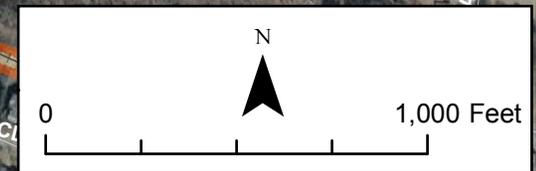


I-85 Integrated Corridor Management Historic Properties

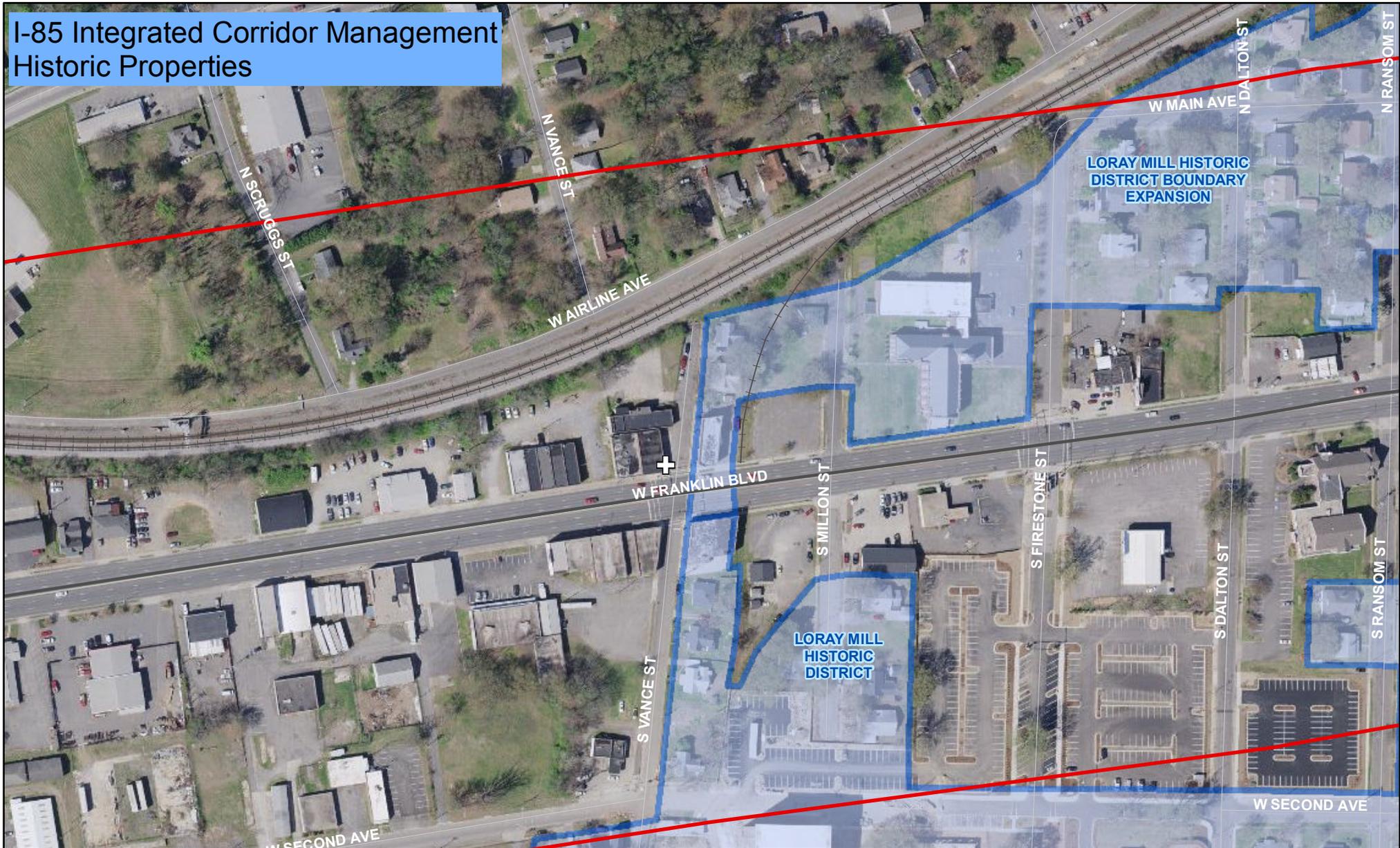


Legend

- | | | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Project Study Area | Proposed Static Sign | Historic Structures | Historic Districts |
| Interstate | Proposed Static Sign Removal | National Register individual listing | National Register |
| US/NC Highway | Proposed CCTV Camera | NR and Local Landmark | Study Listed |
| Local Street | Proposed Dynamic Sign | Study List Individual Entry | Determination of Eligibility |
| Railroad | | SL and Landmark | Local District Boundaries |
| | | Determined Eligible - DOE | |



I-85 Integrated Corridor Management Historic Properties



Project Study Area	Proposed Static Sign	Historic Structures	Historic Districts
Interstate	Proposed Static Sign Removal	National Register individual listing	National Register
US/NC Highway	Proposed CCTV Camera	NR and Local Landmark	Study Listed
Local Street	Proposed Dynamic Sign	Study List Individual Entry	Determination of Eligibility
Railroad		SL and Landmark	Local District Boundaries
		Determined Eligible - DOE	

